



NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Miami, Florida 33165

January 24-30, 2010 is Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week

The week of January 24-30 2010 has been proclaimed by Governor Charlie Crist as [Severe Weather Awareness Week](#). In partnership with Florida's Division of Emergency Management, the National Weather Service will issue a public information statement each day next week focusing on a specific weather hazard. On Monday, January 25, the hazard will be lightning. On Tuesday, January 26, marine hazards and rip currents will be discussed. Wednesday, January 27 will cover tornadoes and thunderstorms, and will feature a statewide tornado drill beginning at 800 am and culminating with a test tornado warning at 1010 am. Thursday, January 28 will highlight hurricanes and flooding. Friday, January 29 will end the week with heat, cold and wildfire threats being discussed.

Although south Florida is blessed with nice weather most of the year, it is not immune to hazardous weather. A total of 8 people died in south Florida as a result of weather related hazards in 2009, with an additional 14 people injured. As is normally the case each year, rip currents led all hazards with 5 deaths and 8 injuries, with two deaths attributed to lightning and one to cold exposure/hypothermia (Table 1).

South Florida was hit by two severe freezes in 2009, one on January 21/22 and the other on February 5. Another severe freeze occurred less than two weeks ago. The combination of these freeze events caused significant damage to crops, with losses from the 2009 events alone estimated at over \$60 million.

2009 marked the fourth year in a row that south Florida was not directly impacted by a hurricane. In fact, no tropical systems impacted south Florida last year, the first time since 2003 that south Florida was not even indirectly impacted by a tropical cyclone. Nevertheless, this should not be interpreted as a sign of things to come in future hurricane seasons. Statistically speaking, south Florida remains the most hurricane-prone part of the United States.

Despite the wetter and stormier than normal 2009 rainy season, less tornadoes and severe thunderstorms were noted than in previous years. Significant flooding took place on June 5 on Miami Beach where over nine inches of rain fell in just over 2 hours, causing water to enter structures and severely flood streets. An even heavier rain event occurred on the evening of December 17 in northeast Miami-Dade and southeast Broward counties, causing major flooding of over 80 buildings and severely inundating large portions of neighborhoods from Dania Beach south to downtown Miami.

For further information on severe weather awareness week...as well as your one-stop source of weather information including warnings and forecasts...please visit the National Weather Service in Miami website at weather.gov/southflorida.

Table 1: 2009 Hazardous Weather Statistics for South Florida

2009 Hazards	\$ Damage	Injuries	Deaths
Lightning	154,000	5	2
T-storm	119,000	1	
Tornado	100,000		
Flood	100,000		
Cold/Freeze	61,550,000		1
Wildfire	65,000		
Rip Currents		8	5
Totals	62,088,000	14	8